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City of Whitehall and Washington, Clinton and Franklin Townships Agree to Sign the Central Ohio Green Pact

(Columbus- September 21, 2009) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) will add four new communities to the Central Ohio Green Pact, bringing the total number of members to 25. The City of Whitehall and Washington, Clinton and Franklin Townships have each passed a resolution agreeing to join the Green Pact.

A signing ceremony with these communities will be held at the Reception of the <u>2009 Summit on Sustainability and the Environment</u>. Tapping into the creative learning space at the COSI science museum in Columbus, the Summit starts at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 6 and will take on a global theme, catering to professionals and activists as they learn about the best practices available to resolve environmental challenges. To register for the Summit visit www.greenregion.org.

Jerry Tinianow, director of MORPC's Center for Energy and Environment, admires the commitments made by the new member communities. "By joining the Green Pact, these communities have embraced the vision that enhancing sustainability will allow central Ohio to be more competitive in retaining and attracting the businesses and talented workers that our region needs," states Tinianow.

The Central Ohio Green Pact was developed in 2007. The community leaders in creating the Pact provided a vehicle for communities to commit to enhancing and protecting the quality of life and economic vibrancy of the region. The Green Pact affirms that it is in the best interest of residents, the business community and our natural environment to take practical steps to protect our air and water, preserve natural resources, increase green space, reduce consumption of raw materials and increase recycling. Participating communities commit to lead by example, through a series of common sense steps that will lead to greener growth, management and living. MORPC will guide the communities through the implementation of the Green Pact. For more information on how your community can become a Green Pact member, contact Leslie Strader, Istrader@morpc.org or 614-233-4124.

Designated as central Ohio's metropolitan planning agency, MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments. The Center for Energy & Environment at MORPC serves as a community resource in the region by offering a variety of services including: daily air quality forecasts, trail coordination, educational presentations, watershed planning, home weatherization, government carbon footprint analysis and more.